UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
09/446,601	04/03/00	ABRAMOVICI	B IVD994

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HM22/0620

EXAMINER	
JAGOE,D	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
1614	8

DATE MAILED: 06/20/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/446,601	ABRAMOVICI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Donna A. Jagoe	1614	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____ .

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

11)☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved.

12)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

13)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14)☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Attachment(s)

15) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
16) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
17) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 7 .
18) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .
19) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
20) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-22 are presented for examination.

Claim Objections

A series of singular dependent claims is permissible in which a dependent claim refers to a preceding claim which, in turn, refers to another preceding claim.

A claim which depends from a dependent claim should not be separated by any claim which does not also depend from said dependent claim. It should be kept in mind that a dependent claim may refer to any preceding independent claim. In general, applicant's sequence will not be changed. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein

were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Physicians Desk Reference in view of Story et al. U. S. Pat. No. 4,944,949 and Martin-Algarra et al. Internat. J. of Pharmaceutics, the secondary references being considered together.

The claims are drawn to a pharmaceutical composition of a benzofuran derivative such as amiodarone or dronedarone solubilized with a nonionic hydrophilic surfactant such as polysorbate 80, to be administered orally in a tablet or gelatin capsule with between 1-50% active principle and 5-15% of nonionic hydrophilic surfactant.

The Physicians Desk Reference teaches an oral formulation of amiodarone tablets, formulated with excipients such as colloidal silicon dioxide, lactose, magnesium stearate, povidone and starch. Further, it teaches that amiodarone is slightly soluble in water (see description). It does not teach the surfactants of the instant application.

Story et al. teach a pharmaceutical delivery system of non-ionic hydrophilic surfactants such as polyoxyethylated surfactants, sorbitan fatty acid esters, poloxamers, polyethylene glycol fatty acid esters and polyethoxylated glyceryl fatty acid esters (column 5, lines 23-32) for poorly water soluble active agents such as NSAIDS (column 4, lines 25-32). It differs in that it does not teach the active agents amiodarone or

dronedarone. Martin-Algarra et al. teach compositions of amiodarone in a non-ionic hydrophilic surfactant such as polysorbate 80 (see abstract). The aim of the study was to characterize intestinal absorption of amiodarone in the presence of increasing non-ionic surfactant concentrations (page 2, column 1, first full paragraph) The concentrations of the surfactant are 0.4 to 80 mM with amiodarone in concentrations of 10-80 micrograms/milliliter (page 2, column 2, lines 7-13). It does not teach oral administration and it does not teach dronedarone.

It would have been obvious to have administered amiodarone orally in a non-ionic hydrophilic surfactant composition since the PDR teaches that amiodarone is slightly soluble in water and the surfactant systems of Story et al. demonstrate the solubilization of insoluble drugs such as NSAIDS. One would have been motivated to use the surfactants of Story et al. since both the NSAIDS of Story et al. and the antiarrhythmics of the instant application are known to be poorly water-soluble. Motivation to formulate amiodarone and dronedarone in a hydrophilic anionic surfactant comes from the need for a rapidly absorbed orally available antiarrhythmic such as amiodarone. It would be expected that dronedarone would behave similarly when solubilized and administered orally since dronedarone is also a benzofuran derivative, it would be expected that it would behave similarly with regard to the solubility data.

Additionally, absorption would be expected to be improved as taught by Martin-Algarra et al., thereby providing additional motivation to do so.

Double Patenting

The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the "right to exclude" granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. See *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970);and, *In re Thorington,* 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent is shown to be commonly owned with this application. See 37 CFR 1.130(b).

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

Claims 1-22 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-30 of U.S. Patent No. 6,143,778 A. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because both are drawn to a pharmaceutical composition of amiodarone, solubilized in an non-ionic hydrophilic surfactant system. Although, the amiodarone of the patent is for parenteral administration, it would have been obvious to lyophilize the compositions of the patent and administer them orally in a tablet or a capsule.

No claims are allowed.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Donna A. Jagoe whose telephone number is (703) 306-5826. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30 A.M. - 3 P.M..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marianne Seidel can be reached on (703) 308-4725. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 305-3230 for regular communications and (703) 308-7921 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0193.

dj
June 14, 2001

FREDERICK KRASS
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1600